

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 10095 161659Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 USIA-06 SP-02 /021 W  
-----161836Z 095519 /45

R 161400Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6243

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FOR NEA/EGY AND CU FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: NA  
TAGS: SCUL, EG  
SUBJ: BROOKLYN MUSEUM NUBIAN EXHIBIT

1. VISITING BROOKLYN MUSEUM OFFICIAL HAD BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION DIFFICULTIES MUSEUM IS HAVING WITH ANTIQUITIES DEPT RE DESIRED LOAN OF SOME NUBIAN ARTIFACTS FOR EXHIBIT PURPOSES. ALTHOUGH D/G ANTIQUITIES, DR GAMAL EL DIN MOUKHTAR, HAD EARLIER AGREED IN PRINCIPLE, HE HAS NOW HAD TO RENEGE BECAUSE OF INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIGHER UP. IT APPEARS THAT MINCULTURE AND INFO ABDEL MONEIM EL SAWI IS INSISTING ON STRICT IMPLEMENTATION OF ESTABLISHED GOE POLICY THAT A COUNTRY CAN RECEIVE NO MORE THAN ONE ANTIQUITIES EXHIBIT AT A TIME.

2. WHEN MEETING WITH EL SAWI THIS MORNING, I RAISED THE MATTER WITH HIM ON AN INFORMAL BASIS. IN CONTEXT SUCCESSFUL TUT EXHIBIT AND THE EFFECT IT IS HAVING ON AMERICAN PUBLIC, I SUGGESTED THAT GOE OUGHT TO CAPITALIZE ON THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP AN EVEN WIDER APPRECIATION WITHIN THE US OF EGYPT'S CULTURAL HERITAGE. BY DOING SO, IT IS ALSO ENCOURAGING A GREATER APPRECIATION OF EGYPT'S PRESENT ASPIRATIONS. WHILE RECOGNIZING THE RATIONALE OF THE GOE POLICY OF NO COUNTRY HAVING MORE THAN ONE EXHIBIT AT ANY TIME, I WONDERED IF IT WOULD NOT BE IN EGYPT'S INTEREST TO RECONSIDER THIS OR TO MAKE  
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EXCEPTIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION, I BROUGHT UP THE BROOKLYN'S MUSEUM'S INTEREST AND WONDERED WHETHER A DISTINCTION MIGHT NOT BE MADE BETWEEN NEW KINGDOM AND NUBIAN ANTIQUITIES, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE NUMBER OF ITEMS DESIRED IS SMALL.

3. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT SUCH A GOE POLICY EXISTS, EL SAWI ASSERTED THAT ITS PURPOSE IS TO AVOID HAVING TOO MANY EGYPTIAN

ANTIQUITIES ABROAD AT ANY ONE TIME. THE NUMBER OF EXHIBITS BEING SENT ABROAD, HE CLAIMED, HAS WORRIED SOME OF HIS ANTIQUITIES COLLEAGUES. THEY HAVE ARGUED THAT THE NUMBER SENT ABROAD OUGHT TO BE LIMITED. HE AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT THE TUT EXHIBIT HAS BEEN A GREAT SUCCESS IN EDUCATING THE AMERICAN PUBLIC ABOUT EGYPT. IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO MAKE AN EXCEPTION TO THE POLICY IN THE CASE OF THE BROOKLYN MUSEUM. HE WOULD DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH HIS COLLEAGUES AND SEE WHAT MIGHT BE DONE.

4. I THANKED HIM FOR HIS INTEREST AND URGED THAT HE PERSUADE HIS ANTIQUITIES COLLEAGUES OF THE IMPORTANCE TO EGYPT OF ALLOWING THESE NUBIAN ITEMS TO BE SENT TO THE US ON LOAN. AS MININFO, HE WAS PROBABLY MORE AWARE THAN I THAT ANTIQUARIANS SOMETIMES OVERLOOK PUBLIC RELATIONS AND POLITICAL BENEFITS THAT ARE GAINED THROUGH OUTSTANDING EXHIBITS ABROAD. THEY NEED TO BE INSTRUCTED ABOUT SUCH MATTERS. EL SAWI AGREED THAT THIS WAS SO AND PROMISED TO DO WHAT HE COULD.

5. AM ADVISING VISITING BROOKLYN MUSEUM REP OF ABOVE TALK.  
EILTS

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009